



NORFOLK

Memorandum

TO: City Council

FROM: Lori A. Crouch, Public Relations Manager

COPIES TO: City Clerk, City Attorney

SUBJECT: Council Interests

DATE: June 6, 2014

You will find information on several items of interest raised during Tuesday's Work Session including an update on the school construction workshops in this week's memo.

Ocean View Restaurant Signage: Signage was recently replaced without obtaining approvals or appropriate permits. The wall signage exceeds the allowable size. A notice of zoning violation was issued. In response to a complaint, a building safety investigator will also tour the site today to ensure proper permits were obtained for any electrical and mechanical work.

HRT Bus Stops: Staff has been working with HRT to relocate bus stops for several months. HRT is in the process of redoing all of the bus stop signs throughout the city. The new signs are a "lollipop" design and have been installed already in various locations.

As part of the process, staff jointly reviewed bus stop locations. The result is a reduction in the total number of stops; enhancing bus schedules. The review included removing mid-block crossings and placing signs at intersections and crosswalks. This improves the buses ability to merge into traffic.

In some cases, the relocation generated citizen complaints. City and HRT staff reviewed the complaints and relocated all but one of the stops. The revised locations may generate other complaints and staff will review those as well.

Staff will continue to work with HRT as it updates its signage. The improvements are part of HRT's initiative to improve the appearance of bus stop locations throughout the city. This included replacing a number of bus shelters in the past year.

Grocery Store Closure: For now, the Fresh Pride remains open. Development staff are in contact with property ownership and monitoring the situation. The City continues efforts to backfill the food store locations that have closed in Ward 5. This effort includes an expanded undertaking by the Department of Development to induce new food stores and perhaps even establish a fresh food co-

op. Development is working with the NRHA and Neighborhood Development to provide transportation to local residents impacted by the closures. These groups are meeting next week to discuss current programs and review options to expand service.

School Construction Public Workshops: City, Norfolk Public Schools staff and the S.B. Ballard team hosted the first of two public workshops earlier this week for Broad Creek and Larchmont Elementary school construction projects. Both meetings were well-attended and we received good input from students and adults. We received 68 Broad Creek survey responses and nearly 175 Larchmont survey responses on design input for the schools. We have updated the school construction website with the survey results and flyers. We will host the second meetings next week to share the revised designs based on the public input. The Broad Creek meeting is Monday, June 9th 6pm at Richard Bowling Elementary and Larchmont is Thursday, June 12th 6pm at Larchmont Elementary.



General Assembly Budget Update: Bryan Pennington, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, has provided an update for you. It is attached to this memo.

Have a nice weekend.



NORFOLK

Inter Departmental Memorandum

TO: City Council, Constitutional Officers, Council Appointees, Senior Executive Team,

FROM: Bryan Pennington, Director of Intergovernmental Relations

COPIES TO: File

SUBJECT: Update on the Virginia General Assembly Budget Impasse

DATE: June 6, 2014

On Wednesday, June 4, 2014, Councilman Smigiel and I attended a Virginia Municipal League Legislative Committee meeting in Richmond. At this meeting, VML's Director of Fiscal Policy, Neil Menkes, offered a very informative presentation on the current Virginia General Assembly Budget Impasse (just the facts). Below are the relevant information highlights of his presentation:

The State's Current Budget Impasse Differs from the Previous Four:

- 2001 – Car Tax Relief Program
 - No budget adopted
- 2004 – Sales Tax Increase
 - Budget adopted; Car tax relief is capped; Sales tax increased by 0.5 percent
- 2006 – Transportation Taxes
 - Budget adopted; No new transportation taxes
- 2012 – Redistricting
 - Budget adopted

State Budget Impasse History:

- Gov. McAuliffe calls the General Assembly into Special Session beginning March 24th
- House and Senate adopt different procedural resolutions.
 - House demands, in essence, that the budget bill originate in the House and not be based on the governor's recommendations (HJ 5003)
 - Senate demands that the procedural resolution follows the one adopted in 2012 Special Session (HJ 5002), which is based on the governor's recommendations (SJ 5001)
 - General Assembly passes "caboose bill" for FY14; Governor approves.

- House Appropriations Committee does not pass HB 5003, which is Governor McAuliffe's bill for 2014-2016 biennium.
- On March 25, the House passes HB 5002, the House budget bill for 2014-16 biennium.
- To date, no action has been taken on HB 5002 by the Senate Finance Committee.
- Senate passes SB 5003 on April 8th, which is essentially based on Governor McAuliffe's bill for the 2014-2016 biennium.
- As of this date, neither chamber has passed the other's budget bill.
- This means, from a technical standpoint, there is no budget conference.
- Other than using news releases, town hall meetings and media interviews to "communicate," the House and Senate budget conferees did not meet face-to-face in April and May.

Senator Hanger Proposes Compromise to Break Impasse

- Senator Hanger publicly surfaced a proposal on May 29 with the goal of ending the current budget stalemate.
- Senator Hanger's bill proposes to change the role of the Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission (MIRC).
- Under current law, MIRC must approve any reform amendment to the state's Medicaid Plan including expansion.
- Unless a majority of House appointees and a majority of Senate appointees agree, no amendments can be made.
- Senator Hanger's concept is to alter MIRC's authority so that a majority vote of all commission members would be required to delay or suspend implementation of expansion.

Next Steps:

- Norfolk and other local governments are working collectively with the Virginia Municipal League to identify and estimate specific budget if there is no state budget in place by July 1st.
- Local governments are also working to identify and request the delay of any new state mandates or requirements passed by the 2014 General Assembly until after a state budget had been adopted.
- The Administration will continue to monitor for any developments.